(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) A Committee of Ministers of Food & Civil Supplies of three States, headed by the Tamil Nadu Minister for Food & Co-operation has been set up for formulating recommendations regarding the National Policy on Public Distribution System (PDS). The committee has been holding discussions with State Governments and representatives of Political Parties to seek their views on the proposed National Policy on PDS. The Committee has now been given time till 31st May, 1993 to submit its report.

Licence for New Sugar Mills

2082. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given licences for a number of new sugar mills as well as for expansion of existing sugar factories ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some grantees are unable to implement their projects because financial institutions are hesitant to give loans to them treating their projects to be non-viable projects ; and

(d) if so, whether Government will issue instructions to the financial institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) During the sugar year 1992-93 (October-September), no letter of intent for setting up of new sugar mills or for expansion of existing sugar factories have been granted so far.

(c) and (d) Arrangement of finances and implementation of the construction work of new sugar factories are primarily the responsibility of the entrepreneurs. Government have, however, taken up with the financial instiutions the matter regarding grant of finances to new sugar factories.

Shortage of Food in the Country

2083. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural experts have warned of food shortage in the country during the next five or ten years ;

(b) if so, the basis of their warning; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) The compound growth rate of foodgrains during 1980-81 to 1991-92 was observed to be 2.95 per cent per annum which is quite significant. Government will make all endeavour to maintain such a trend in the coming years and no shortage is, therefore, anticipated.

Storage capacity of C.W.C.

2084. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what was the storage capacity of the Central Warehousing Corporation as on 31st October, 1992;

(b) what was the average capacity utilisation during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(c) what was the net profit of the Corporation for the year 1991-92 as Compared to 1990-91 and the profit expected during the year 1992-93;

(d) what is the outlay proposed for the year 1993-94;